

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016 AT 7.00PM

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: M Brandon; C Briton; J North (Deputy Mayor); Cllr Price;  
T Robbins (Chairman); H Siggs; D Swain (Vice-Chairman)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: F White  
RFO: S Luck  
Cllr R MacKenzie (representing Wells Neighbourhood Watch)  
2 members of the public

**16/66F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

G Wilson

**16/67F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012.  
Cllr North declared an interest as Chairman of the Wells Recreation Ground Trust and left the room when this item was discussed; Cllr Siggs also declared an interest as member and left the room. 16/75F

**16/68F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016** Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

**16/69F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Representatives presented community grant applications on behalf of:

- i. Rotary Club of Wells
- ii. Wells Neighbourhood Watch

**16/70F FINANCE REPORT**

- i. To receive the financial reports for June 2016  
The bank statements and accounts had been checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for June 2016 were proposed, seconded and approved.
- ii. The RFO reported information from Stoberry School regarding the crossing patrol: there had been some delays but there is now someone in post, to start work in September. Arrangements have been made for the agreed support payments to be given.

**16/71F COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS**

- i. Wells Neighbourhood Watch £150: approved. (LG & Rating Act 1997s31)
- ii. Wells Rotary Reindeer Parade. Not granted.  
The RFO was instructed to investigate the costs of advertising the Town Hall in the event program.

**16/72F ANNUAL REVIEWS**

- i. To approve the schedule of annual reviews for the Council year 2016-17
  - ii. To receive draft Financial Regulations (NALC model 2016)
- Documents were provided by the Town Clerk; members are asked to contact her with any questions, before the next meeting.

**16/73F EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, involving third party contracts, it was proposed by the Chairman that a resolution be passed under the

provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended, excluding the press and public: RESOLVED

**16/74F**

**PROPERTIES**

Post Office, Wells Market Place

Nothing further to report.

Public Toilets at Princes Road

It is understood the draft contract will be received from MDC w/c 25<sup>th</sup> July.

Discussions are being held with First Bristol Ltd, with a view to keeping the ticket office open to the public as much as possible.

**16/75F**

**WELLS RECREATION GROUND TRUST**

The Chairman reported from a meeting held with MDC.

(Cllrs North and Siggs left the room.)

Wells CC has continued to express its wish to be involved in the running of the Trust. MDC has stated that it intends to invite Wells CC to propose a member to be appointed onto the Trust.

It is understood that various forward options are under consideration by MDC, as to what form the Trust might take.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee accepted the principle that it is possible a future Trust may apply to the City Council for grant funding. It was agreed that the budget process in October may include initial consideration of beginning to precept for a fund towards this future.

There was discussion of some of the possible necessary processes and safeguards.

The City Council has stated its commitment to forwarding the original aims of the Recreation Ground bequest, for the benefit of the people of Wells.

In conclusion the committee re-affirmed that the City Council wishes to work with MDC towards achieving these aims, and hopes to have representation on the Wells Recreation Ground Trust as soon as possible.

(Cllr North returned.)

**16/76F**

**MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

Cllr Brandon reported from Mendip Rural Forum:

The MDC Street Trading policy is being redraft, taking account of feedback from towns and parishes; a new consultation document will be issued shortly.

**16/77F**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING : 7pm Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016**